

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] Organizations which own, control or manage multiple sites such as businesses, property management groups, or government entities, are faced with a management and communication problem in that such remote and dispersed sites often include one or more continuously and independently operating fire alarm systems, security systems, building control systems or the like to monitor some or all of the regions of the respective properties. ~~[[Its]]~~ It's known to provide a communication link from fire monitoring systems to a local fire department for purposes of reporting one or more alarm conditions. However, such communication links do not ~~necessary~~ necessarily provide warnings or alarm indications to organizational management which might be displaced hundreds of miles from the respective facility. Such links may not transfer information relative to the other types of systems.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] While some properties are easily accessible, others may be remotely located and difficult to access. Hence, there continues to be ~~[[a]]~~ an ongoing need to be able to remotely access, through dedicated lines or dial-up lines, displaced regional monitoring systems such as fire monitoring systems, security systems, building control systems or the like for diagnostic and maintenance purposes, downloading revised control software to reflect new construction or building renovations as well as to upgrade with additional features and the like. Preferably such communications could be carried out without having to create or establish dedicated communication systems to serve remote monitoring systems where such communication systems do not already exist. Preferably, usage of existing computer networks, such as the Internet, could be expanded to support such communications with displaced monitoring systems.

Please add the following new paragraph, including heading "Summary", after paragraph [0003]:

SUMMARY

[0003.1] A system that embodies the invention includes a plurality of spaced apart monitoring systems. Each of the systems includes at least one port for communicating, via a computer network to a displaced monitoring apparatus, and, a monitoring apparatus which includes at least one port for communicating, via the computer network, with each of the systems including software for accessing the status of at least one region being monitored by a respective selected system.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] An operator O can communicate with the monitoring interface 14 via graphical user interface software 18a and display 18b. It will be understood that the characteristics and capabilities of the graphical user interface 18a as well as the display 18b may vary and are not limitations of the present invention. Similarly, communication links such as C1, C2...CN between the monitoring units M1...Mn and their respective Internet Service Providers, in an Internet communication environment, may vary and are not limitations of the present invention. Nor[[,]] are the local Internet Service Provider 14-1, or the types of communication links between monitoring interface 14 and the computer network 12 limitations of the present invention.